

Application Serial No: 10/532,888
Responsive to the Office Action mailed on: April 27, 2007

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on April 27, 2007. Claims 1, 4 and 8 are amended. Claim 1 is amended editorially and is supported, for example, in the specification on page 15, lines 18-21. Claims 4 and 8 are amended editorially and are supported, for example, in Figure 8. No new matter is added. Claims 1 and 3-11 are pending.

Drawing Objections:

The drawings are objected to for failing to show every feature specified in the claims. In particular, the objection asserts that the release member provided via said one latching member of claim 4 and the release member disposed at one of the corners formed by said one side panel of claim 8 are not shown. Claims 4 and 8 are amended editorially to recite the release member shown in Figure 8. Withdrawal of this objection is requested.

§112, Second Paragraph:

Claims 1 and 3-11 are rejected as being indefinite. In particular, the phrase "for latching the cartridge by engaging with any of the plurality of groove portions" of claim 1 is rejected as indefinite. Claim 1 is amended editorially to clarify how the plurality of latching members and the plurality of groove members are engaged with each other. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

§102 Rejections:

Claims 1, 4 and 11 are rejected as being anticipated by Law (US Patent No. 6,164,446). This rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 is directed to a case for holding a cartridge that is provided with, among other features, a front face, a rear face, a pair of side faces and a plurality of groove portions that are recessed from one of the pair of side faces toward the other side face. The case requires, among other features, a plurality of latching members provided to the bottom panel, for latching the cartridge by biased engagement with any of the plurality of groove portions, the plurality of latching members including two latching members that

Application Serial No: 10/532,888

Responsive to the Office Action mailed on: April 27, 2007

are disposed at opposite diagonal corners of the cartridge. The case also requires a release member disposed at a location near one of the two latching members disposed at opposite diagonal corners of the cartridge, for releasing the latching of the cartridge with the plurality of latching members and the plurality of groove portions. An advantage of these features is that it allows for easier removal of the cartridge from the case by raising the corner of the cartridge by the release operation of the release component. Also, another advantage of these features is that the pressing force applied to the pressure release component can be reduced and latching can be released in a shorter raising distance for an engagement release component.

Law does not disclose or teach or suggest these features. Law is directed to a data disc box for holding a data disc. The invention of Law is directed to discs that are circular thin plate shapes. Thus, Law cannot disclose or suggest a case that holds a cartridge provided with a front face, a rear face and a pair of side faces, or a plurality of groove portions that are recessed from one of the pair of side faces toward the other side face. Moreover, Law also cannot disclose or suggest that its case includes a plurality of latching members provided to the bottom panel, for latching the cartridge by biased engagement with any of the plurality of groove portions, the plurality of latching members including two latching members that are disposed at opposite diagonal corners of the cartridge because the case disclosed in Law is directed to discs which cannot have a plurality of groove portions or opposite diagonal corners. For the same reasons, Law also cannot disclose or suggest that its case includes a release member disposed at a location near one of the two latching members disposed at opposite diagonal corners of the cartridge, for releasing the latching members on the case from a plurality of groove portions formed on a cartridge.

As described above, the features of the case of claim 1 and the features of the case of Law are structurally different because they are directed to holding inherently different objects. Thus, Law also provides no motivation to modify its case to the features of claim 1 nor does Law contemplate allowing for easier removal of the cartridge from the case by raising the corner of the cartridge by the release operation of the release component reducing the pressing force applied to the pressure release component so that latching can be released in a shorter raising distance for an engagement release

Application Serial No: 10/532,888
Responsive to the Office Action mailed on: April 27, 2007

component. For at least these reasons claim 1 is not suggested by Law. Claims 4 and 11 depend from claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons.

§103 Rejections:

Claims 3 and 7-11 are rejected as being unpatentable over Law in view of Chiu (US Patent Publication No. 2002/0100701). This rejection is traversed. Claims 3 and 7-11 depend from claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons described above. Applicant does not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected as being unpatentable over Law in view of Deja (US Patent No. 5,526,926). This rejection is traversed. Claims 5 and 6 depend from claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons described above. Applicant does not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Chiu and Deja:

In order to expedite the prosecution of this matter, the following is noted on the Chiu and Deja prior art references with respect to claim 1. Similar to Law, both Chiu and Deja are directed to cases for holding a disc. Thus, both of these references are inherently different from the case of claim 1 and cannot be used in combination with Law to teach the features of claim 1.

Application Serial No: 10/532,888
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Conclusion:

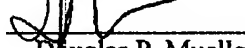
Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1 and 3-11 are now in condition for allowance. If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicant's primary attorney-of record, Douglas P. Mueller (Reg. No. 30,300), at (612) 455-3804.



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Respectfully submitted,

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